

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1582

To reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and  
for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2007

Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services  
Improvement Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hydrographic Services  
5 Improvement Act Amendments of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 The Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998  
8 (33 U.S.C. 892 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating sections 302 through 306  
10 as sections 303 through 307, respectively; and

1 (2) by inserting after section 301 the following:

2 **“SEC. 302. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

3 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

4 “(1) In 2007, the Nation celebrates the 200th  
5 anniversary of its oldest scientific agency, the Survey  
6 of the Coast, which was authorized by Congress and  
7 created by President Thomas Jefferson in 1807 to  
8 conduct surveys of the coast and provide nautical  
9 charts for safe passage through the Nation’s ports  
10 and along its extensive coastline.

11 “(2) These mission requirements and capabili-  
12 ties, which today are located in the National Oceanic  
13 and Atmospheric Administration, evolved over time  
14 to include—

15 “(A) research, development, operations,  
16 products, and services associated with hydro-  
17 graphic, geodetic, shoreline, and baseline sur-  
18 veying;

19 “(B) cartography, mapping, and charting;

20 “(C) tides, currents, and water level obser-  
21 vations;

22 “(D) maintenance of a national spatial ref-  
23 erence system; and

24 “(E) associated products and services.

1           “(3) There is a need to maintain Federal exper-  
2           tise and capability in hydrographic data and services  
3           to support a safe and efficient marine transportation  
4           system for the enhancement and promotion of inter-  
5           national trade and interstate commerce vital to the  
6           Nation’s economic prosperity and for myriad other  
7           commercial and recreational activities.

8           “(4) The Nation’s marine transportation sys-  
9           tem is becoming increasingly congested, the volume  
10          of international maritime commerce is expected to  
11          double within the next 20 years, and nearly half of  
12          the cargo transiting United States waters is oil, re-  
13          fined petroleum products, or other hazardous sub-  
14          stances.

15          “(5) In addition to commerce, hydrographic  
16          data and services support other national needs for  
17          the Great Lakes and coastal waters, the territorial  
18          sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone, and the conti-  
19          nental shelf of the United States, including—

20                 “(A) emergency response;

21                 “(B) homeland security;

22                 “(C) marine resource conservation;

23                 “(D) coastal resiliency to sea-level rise,  
24                 coastal inundation, and other hazards;

1           “(E) ocean and coastal science advance-  
2           ment; and

3           “(F) improved and integrated ocean and  
4           coastal mapping and observations for an inte-  
5           grated ocean observing system.

6           “(6) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
7           Administration, in cooperation with other agencies  
8           and the States, serves as the Nation’s leading civil  
9           authority for establishing and maintaining national  
10          standards and datums for hydrographic data and  
11          services.

12          “(7) The Director of the National Oceanic and  
13          Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Coast Survey  
14          serves as the National Hydrographer and the pri-  
15          mary United States representative to the inter-  
16          national hydrographic community, including the  
17          International Hydrographic Organization.

18          “(8) The hydrographic expertise, data, and  
19          services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
20          Administration provide the underlying and authori-  
21          tative basis for baseline and boundary demarcation,  
22          including the establishment of marine and coastal  
23          territorial limits and jurisdiction, such as the Exclu-  
24          sive Economic Zone.

1           “(9) Research, development and application of  
2           new technologies will further increase efficiency, pro-  
3           mote the Nation’s competitiveness, provide social  
4           and economic benefits, enhance safety and environ-  
5           mental protection, and reduce risks.

6           “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

7           “(1) to augment the ability of the National  
8           Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to fulfill its  
9           responsibilities under this and other authorities;

10          “(2) to provide more accurate and up-to-date  
11          hydrographic data and services in support of safe  
12          and efficient international trade and interstate com-  
13          merce, including—

14               “(A) hydrographic surveys;

15               “(B) electronic navigational charts;

16               “(C) real-time tide, water level, and cur-  
17          rent information and forecasting;

18               “(D) shoreline surveys; and

19               “(E) geodesy and 3-dimensional posi-  
20          tioning data;

21          “(3) to support homeland security, emergency  
22          response, ecosystem approaches to marine manage-  
23          ment, and coastal resiliency by providing hydro-  
24          graphic data and services with many other useful

operational, scientific, engineering, and management applications, including—

“(A) storm surge, tsunami, coastal flooding, erosion, and pollution trajectory monitoring, predictions, and warnings;

“(B) marine and coastal geographic information systems;

“(C) habitat restoration;

“(D) long-term sea-level trends; and

“(E) more accurate environmental assessments and monitoring;

“(4) to promote improved integrated ocean and coastal mapping and observations through increased coordination and cooperation;

“(5) to provide for and support research and development in hydrographic data, services and related technologies to enhance the efficiency, accuracy and availability of hydrographic data and services and thereby promote the Nation’s scientific and technological competitiveness; and

“(6) to provide national and international leadership for hydrographic and related services, sciences, and technologies.”.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improve-  
3 ment Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892), as redesignated by  
4 section 2, is amended—

5 (1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
6 lows:

7 “(3) HYDROGRAPHIC DATA.—The term “hydro-  
8 graphic data” means information acquired through  
9 hydrographic, bathymetric, or shoreline surveying;  
10 geodetic, geospatial, or geomagnetic measurements;  
11 tide, water level, and current observations, or other  
12 methods, that is used in providing hydrographic  
13 services.”;

14 (2) by striking paragraph (4)(A) and inserting  
15 the following:

16 “(A) the management, maintenance, inter-  
17 pretation, certification, and dissemination of  
18 bathymetric, hydrographic, shoreline, geodetic,  
19 geospatial, geomagnetic, and tide, water level,  
20 and current information, including the produc-  
21 tion of nautical charts, nautical information  
22 databases, and other products derived from hy-  
23 drographic data;”; and

24 (3) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the  
25 following:

1           “(5) COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY ACT.—  
 2           The term ‘Coast and Geodetic Survey Act’ means  
 3           the Act entitled ‘An Act to define the functions and  
 4           duties of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and for  
 5           other purposes’, approved August 6, 1947 (33  
 6           U.S.C. 883a et seq.).”.

7   **SEC. 4. FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.**

8           Section 304 of the Hydrographic Services Improve-  
 9   ment Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892a), as redesignated by  
 10 section 2, is amended—

11           (1) by striking “the Act of 1947,” in subsection  
 12           (a) and inserting “the Coast and Geodetic Survey  
 13           Act, promote safe, efficient, and environmentally  
 14           sound marine transportation, and otherwise fulfill  
 15           the purposes of this Act,”;

16           (2) by striking “data;” in subsection (a)1) and  
 17           inserting “data and provide hydrographic services;”;  
 18           and

19           (3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
 20           following:

21           “(b) AUTHORITIES.—To fulfill the data gathering  
 22           and dissemination duties of the Administration under the  
 23           Coast and Geodetic Survey Act, promote safe, efficient,  
 24           and environmentally sound marine transportation, and



1 otherwise fulfill the purposes of this Act, subject to the  
2 availability of appropriations—

3 “(1) the Administrator may procure, lease,  
4 evaluate, test, develop, and operate vessels, equip-  
5 ment, and technologies necessary to ensure safe  
6 navigation and maintain operational expertise in hy-  
7 drographic data acquisition and hydrographic serv-  
8 ices;

9 “(2) the Administrator shall design, install,  
10 maintain, and operate real-time hydrographic moni-  
11 toring systems to enhance navigation safety and effi-  
12 ciency;

13 “(3) where appropriate and to the extent that  
14 it does not detract from the promotion of safe and  
15 efficient navigation, the Administrator may acquire  
16 hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services  
17 to support the conservation and management of  
18 coastal and ocean resources;

19 “(4) where appropriate, the Administrator may  
20 acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic  
21 services to save and protect life and property and  
22 support the resumption of commerce in response to  
23 emergencies, natural and man-made disasters, and  
24 homeland security and maritime domain awareness  
25 needs, including obtaining Mission Assignments as

1 defined in section 641 of the Post-Katrina Emer-  
 2 gency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C.  
 3 741);

4 “(5) the Administrator may create, support,  
 5 and maintain such joint centers, and enter into and  
 6 perform such contracts, leases, grants, or coopera-  
 7 tive agreements as may be necessary to carry out  
 8 the purposes of this Act; and

9 “(6) notwithstanding paragraph (5), the Ad-  
 10 ministrator shall award contracts for the acquisition  
 11 of hydrographic data in accordance with title IX of  
 12 the Federal Property and Administrative Services  
 13 Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).”.

14 **SEC. 5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.**

15 Subsection (b) of section 305 of the Hydrographic  
 16 Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892b), as  
 17 redesignated by section 2, is amended by striking  
 18 “303(a)(3)” each place it appears and inserting  
 19 “304(a)(3)”.

20 **SEC. 6. HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL.**

21 Section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improve-  
 22 ment Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892c), as redesignated by  
 23 section 2, is amended—

24 (1) by striking “303” in subsection (b)(1) and  
 25 inserting “304”;

1           (2) by striking subsection (c)(1)(A) and insert-  
2     ing “(A) The panel shall consist of 15 voting mem-  
3     bers who shall be appointed by the Administrator.  
4     The Co-directors of the Joint Hydrographic Institute  
5     and no more than 2 employees of the National Oce-  
6     anic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by  
7     the Administrator shall serve as nonvoting members  
8     of the panel. The voting members of the panel shall  
9     be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experi-  
10    ence, or training, are especially qualified in 1 or  
11    more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydro-  
12    graphic data and hydrographic services, and other  
13    disciplines as determined appropriate by the Admin-  
14    istrator.”;

15           (3) by striking “Secretary” in subsections  
16    (c)(1)(C), (c)(3), and (e) and inserting “Adminis-  
17    trator”; and

18           (4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the  
19    following:

20    “(d) COMPENSATION.—Voting members of the panel  
21    shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses,  
22    such as travel and per diem, incurred in the performance  
23    of such duties.”.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       Section 307 of the Hydrographic Services Improve-  
3 ment Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d), as redesignated by  
4 section 2, is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6       “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-  
7 ministrator sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal  
8 years 2008 through 2012 for the purposes of carrying out  
9 this Act.”.

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